

CLAIMS

1. A sealing strip for a closure member, the closure member comprising a first part and a second part, the strip being configured for mounting on the closure member to seal between the closure member and the frame of an aperture closed by the closure member and for obscuring from view a connection region between the first part and the second part of the closure member.
2. The strip of claim 1, wherein the connection region includes the region where means for connecting the first and second parts of the closure member are located.
3. The strip of claim 2, wherein the means for connecting the first and second parts comprises a screw a clip or the like.
4. The strip of claim 1,2 or 3, wherein the connection region includes the point at which the first and second parts of the closure member meet as would be viewed from the exterior of the closure member.
5. The strip of claim 4, wherein the strip comprises a lip or protrusion extending from the main body of the strip and abutting the closure member, the lip or protrusion being arranged such that it conceals the point at which the first and second parts of the closure member meet.
6. The strip of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sealing strip is configured for mounting at the peripheral edge region of the closure member.
7. The strip of any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein the strip is configured such that the means for connecting the first and second parts of the closure member may be applied when the strip is mounted on the closure member.

8. The strip of claim 7, wherein one or more apertures, cuts or slits are formed in the strip to allow the connecting means to pass therethrough for connecting the first and second parts of the closure member.
9. The strip of claim 8, wherein two of said apertures, cuts or slits are provided, and wherein the strip is resiliently deformable in order to bring a first of said apertures, cuts or slits into alignment with the second of said apertures, cuts or slits to allow the connecting means to be applied, and further wherein, after said resilient deformation, the strip resiles and the alignment of said two apertures, cuts or slits is lost.
10. The strip of any one of the preceding claims, comprising adhesive means for mounting the strip to at least said first part of the closure member.
11. The strip of claim 10, wherein said adhesive means comprises double-sided adhesive tape.
12. The strip of any one of claims 2 to 11, wherein the connecting means further connects the strip to at least the first part of said closure member.
13. The strip of any one of the preceding claims, comprising a tubular portion for pressing against the frame of the aperture closed by the closure member, the tubular portion containing relatively highly compressible material.
14. The strip of claim 13, wherein the said compressible material comprises air.
15. The seal of claim 13 or 14 when dependent on claim 9, wherein the tubular portion defines a hollow region and the apertures, cuts or slits formed in the seal form a passageway from the hollow area to the exterior of the tubular portion.

16. The strip of any one of the preceding claims, comprising a resiliently deformable lip for overlying a trim panel coupled to at least said first part of the closure member.

17. The strip of any one of claims 2 to 16, wherein the strip comprises a base portion for attachment to at least the first part of said closure member, the base portion having a plurality of recesses formed therein to accommodate the connecting means.

18. The strip of claim 17, wherein the base is pivotable or tiltable with respect to the main body of the strip, and wherein said base and said main body have corresponding engagement formations for releasably coupling together the base and the main portion at first relative positions thereto, and for allowing disengagement of said engagement formations by the application of force to the strip to allow pivoting or tilting relative movement between the main portion and the base.

19. The strip of claim 18, wherein said pivoting or tilting allows said connecting means to be applied.

20. The strip of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the strip comprises a channel-shaped portion for coupling to a flange of at least the first part of said closure member.

21. The strip of claim 20, wherein said channel-shaped portion includes a relatively rigid channel-shaped embedded carrier.

22. The strip of any one of claims 2 to 21, wherein the strip is configured to cooperate with a relatively rigid clamping member which locates the strip when said connecting means is applied.

23. The strip of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the strip comprises a plurality of mounting formations formed at spaced apart intervals along the length of the strip.

24. The strip of claim 23, wherein the first and second parts of the closure member are configured to lie in closer proximity to one another at the regions where said spaced apart mounting formations are provided, the spacing between the first and second parts being increased at other regions.

25. The strip according to any one of the preceding claims, including means for coupling the strip to a trim portion for mounting onto the first part of said closure member.

26. The strip of any one of the claims 2 to 25, wherein the strip is configured to have a first position in which it allows access to the connecting means and a second operative position in which it obscures the connecting means, the strip being movable from said first position to said second position by applying a pushing force thereto.

27. The strip of any one of claims 2 to 26, wherein the connecting means are coupled to the closure member in a mounting position prior to mounting the strip on the closure member, the connecting means being moved from said mounting position to a fixing position after said strip is mounted to said closure member.

28. The strip of any one of claims 2 to 27, wherein the connecting means is mounted to the first part prior to mounting the strip on the second part.

29. The strip of claim 28, wherein the connecting means is mounted to the first part by a fixing part which locates the connecting means with respect to the first part.

30. The strip of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the closure member comprises a vehicle door.

31. A closure member comprising first and second parts and means for coupling together the first and second parts, wherein a sealing strip is provided on the closure member to seal between the closure member and the frame of an aperture closed by the closure member and for obscuring from view a connection region between the first part and the second part of the closure member.

32. A closure member according to claim 31, wherein the strip has the features of any one of claims 1 to 30.

33. A closure member according to claim 31 or 32, wherein the first and second parts of the closure member are fixed together before the strip is attached.

34. A method of mounting a sealing strip to a closure member comprising first and second parts, the method including:

- (1) coupling together the first and second parts, and
- (2) mounting the seal on the closure member to seal between the closure member and the frame of an aperture closed by the closure member and for obscuring from view a connection region between the first part and the second part of the closure member,

wherein steps (1) and (2) are performed in any order.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the strip has the features of any one of claims 1 to 30.